



Public Health  
England

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# Laboratory reports of hepatitis A infections in England and Wales, April to June 2019

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# Laboratory reports of hepatitis A infections: April to June 2019

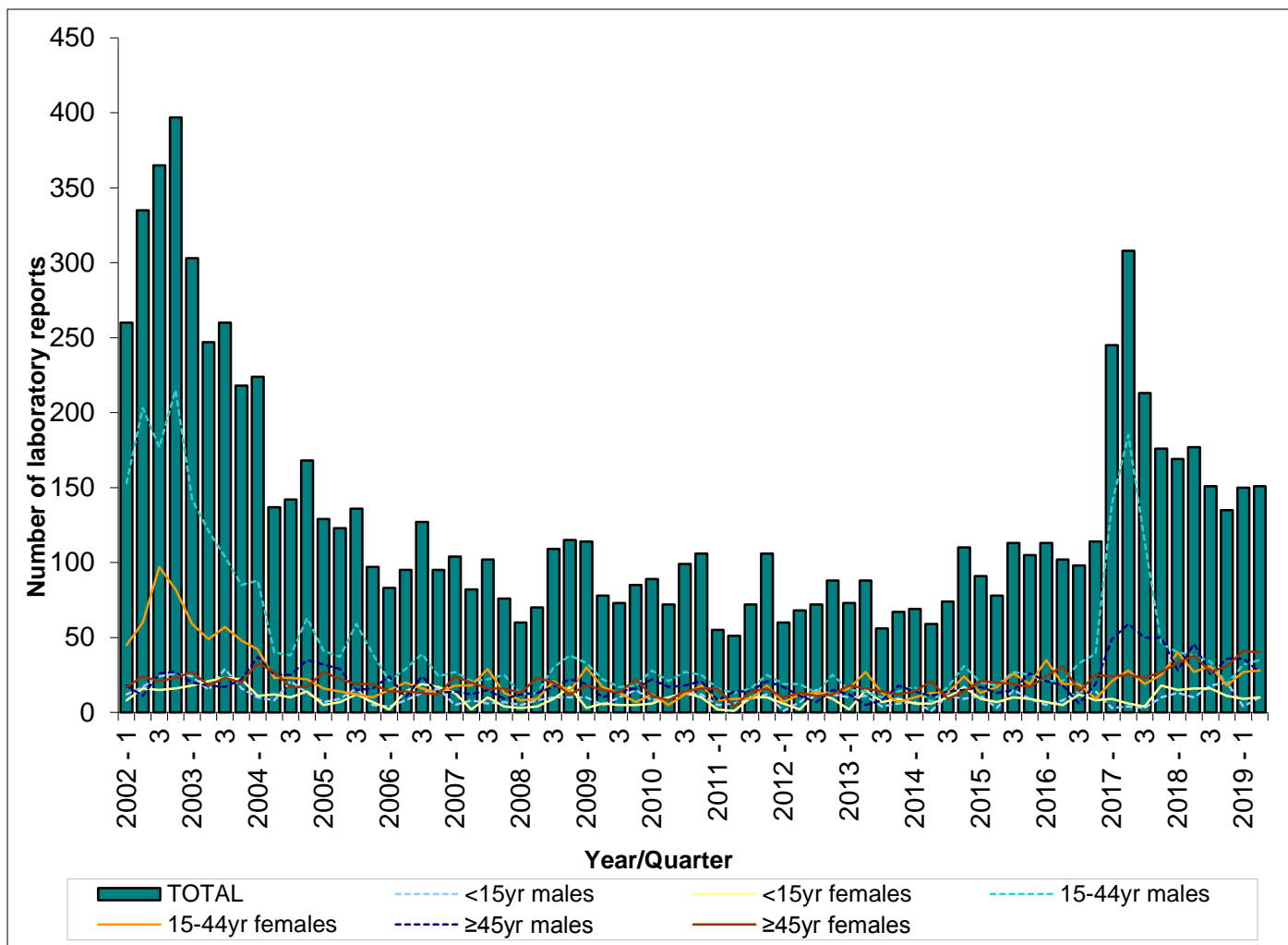
There were a total of 151 laboratory reports of new patients with hepatitis A reported to Public Health England (PHE) during the second quarter of 2019 (April – July 2019). This is a 0.1% increase on the reports in the first quarter of 2019 (n=150), (Figure 1). Of these, 92 reports of new patients remained after exclusion of patients with samples sent to the Virus Reference Department (VRD) that were not confirmed as having had a recent hepatitis A virus infection (see Figure 2).

The London PHE region accounted for 22.5% (n=34) of reports, followed by 21.9% (n=33) from the Yorkshire and Humber region. During this period a single case gave rise to an outbreak in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Age group and sex were well reported (99.3% complete) (Table 1). There were 67 (44.4%) reports among those aged 45 years and over, followed by 63 (41.7%) reports among those in the 15-44 years age group and 20 (13.2%) in those aged under 15 years. Females accounted for the slight majority of reports overall (51.7%, n=78) with the largest proportion of females in an age group observed in the 45 and over age group (59.7%, n=40).

**Table 1: Laboratory reports of hepatitis A in England and Wales, April – June 2019**

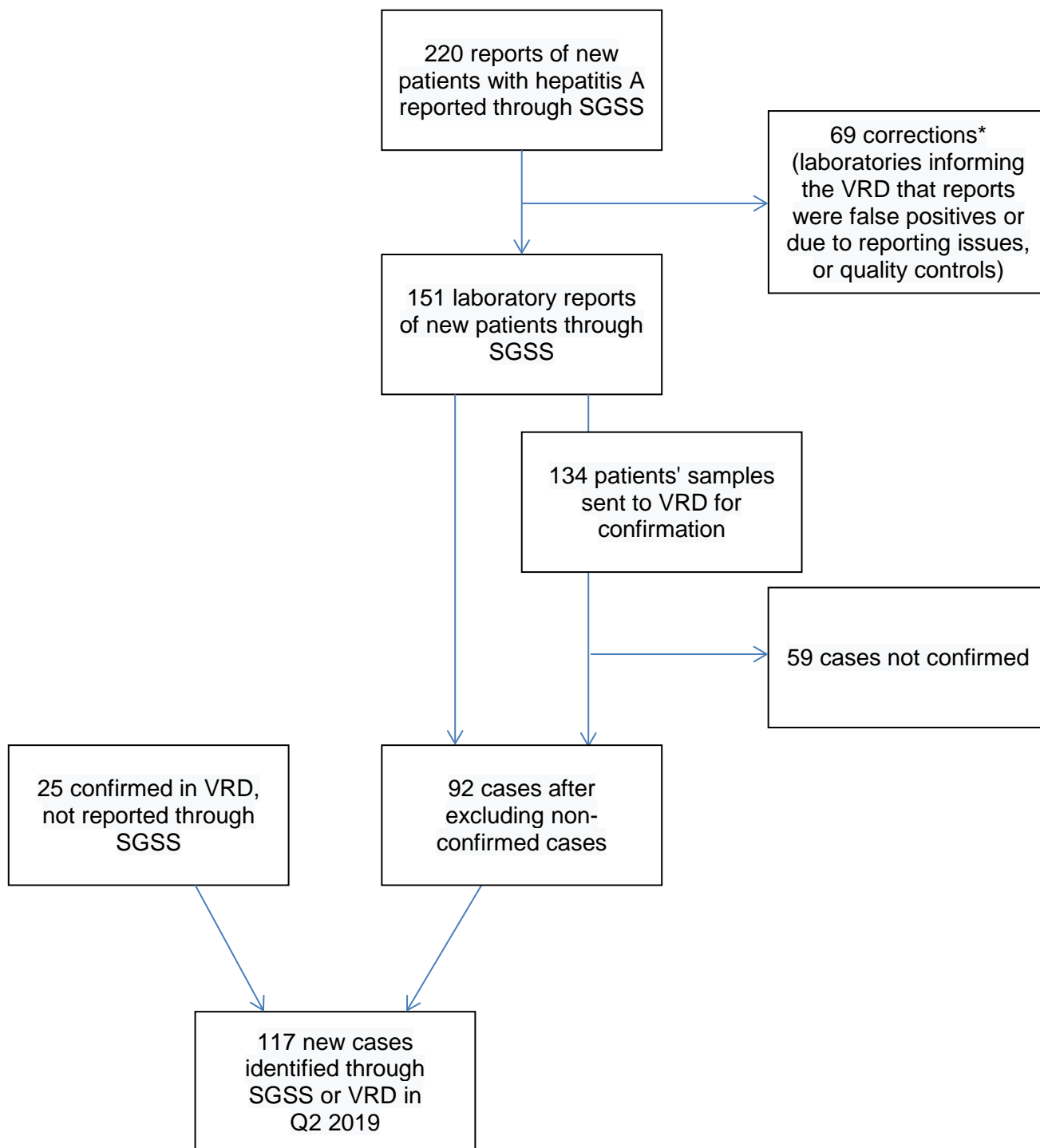
Age group	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
<1 years	0	0	0	0
1-4 years	4	4	0	8
5-9 years	4	1	0	5
10-14 years	2	5	0	8
15-24 years	14	9	0	17
25-34 years	7	12	0	23
35-44 years	7	14	0	19
45-54 years	8	8	0	19
55-64 years	7	8	0	16
≥65 years	25	11	0	43
Unknown	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>151</b>

**Figure 1: Laboratory reports of hepatitis A by age and sex (England and Wales), January 2002 to June 2019\***



\* All figures are provisional and subject to change as records are updated.

**Figure 2: Flowchart of laboratory reports of hepatitis A and confirmation status by the VRD (England and Wales), April – June 2019**



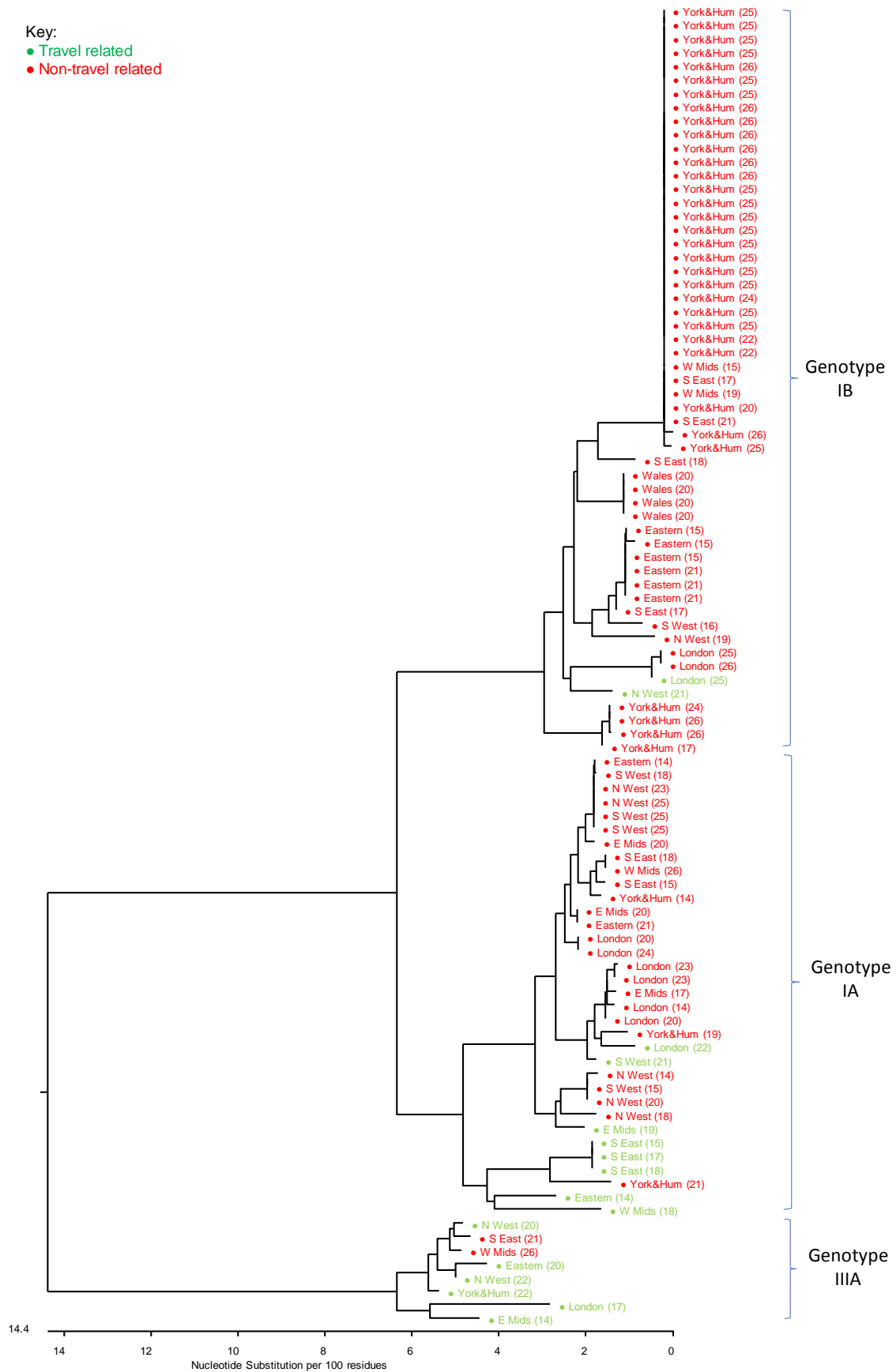
\* 62 of the corrections were due to a reporting issue by a laboratory in the South East.

# Reference laboratory confirmation and phylogeny of hepatitis A infection

Of the 151 patients reported through SGSS as having acute HAV infection during the second quarter of 2019, 134 (88.7%) had samples forwarded to the Virus Reference Department for confirmation. Fifty-nine of the patients were not confirmed to have acute HAV infection. The remaining 75 patients were confirmed to have acute HAV infection. In addition, 25 patients were confirmed to have acute HAV infection that had not been reported through the laboratory reporting system although all the English cases were recorded in HPZone.

A total of 97 patients could be genotyped over this period; 36 were genotype IA (37.1%), 53 were genotype IB (54.6%) and 8 were genotype IIIA (8.3%). Of these samples 15 were associated with travel (15.5%) and 82 had no travel history (84.5%). This information is presented as a phylogenetic tree. Each sequence is represented by a dot with the patient region and the week of sampling in brackets. The single case that gave rise to the outbreak in the Yorkshire and Humber region was a IB genotype.

**Figure 3: Phylogenetic tree of genotype IA, IB, and IIIA sequences April to June 2019 (n=97)**



# About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. We do this through world-class science, research, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health Social Care, and are a distinct delivery organisation with operational autonomy to advise and support government, local authorities and the NHS in a professionally independent manner.

## *About Health Protection Report*

*Health Protection Report* is a national public health bulletin for England and Wales, published by Public Health England. It is PHE's principal channel for the dissemination of laboratory data relating to pathogens and infections/communicable diseases of public health significance and of reports on outbreaks, incidents and ongoing investigations.

Public Health England, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG

Tel: 020 7654 8000 [www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe)

Twitter: [@PHE\\_uk](https://twitter.com/PHE_uk) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland](https://www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland)

Queries relating to this document should be directed to: the Immunisation, Hepatitis and Blood Safety Department, National Infection Service, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5EQ.

[immunisation@phe.gov.uk](mailto:immunisation@phe.gov.uk)



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